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May 22, 2006

President and
Chief Operating Officer

The Board of Directors
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

Comments for Inclusion in the Public Record Regarding Transmission Access

Dear Board Members:

My family has owned farmland in Warren County, Kentucky for over 30 years, and during that time, we have been members and customers of Warren Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation. I am writing you in regard to utilization of TVA transmission lines and asking for your help in resolving a potentially devastating situation for our farm and for countless acres across many counties in Kentucky.

As you well know, WRECC decided, somewhat capriciously it seems, to switch from TVA to East Kentucky Power Cooperative. While I admit that I know nothing about the production and transmission of electricity, I have yet to be able to see their logic in moving to a power provider which does not currently have the capacity to even provide power to WRECC customers.

The only possible saving grace behind WRECC's decision to switch to a powerless power company was that TVA *does* have transmission lines and power companies do, in fact, utilize each other's capacities on many occasions. I thought that surely, for the benefit of the citizens and environment alike, an agreement would be worked out between TVA and EKPC to minimize the need for new line construction. This hope was dashed, however, when either you refused to allow usage of your lines or EKPC failed to pursue it in earnest.

Without TVA's existing structure, EKPC needs to install massive poles and new lines to meet the arbitrary deadline set by WRECC and EKPC to leave TVA. To do so, they are working to acquire miles and miles of easements through prime farmland, residential properties, woods and historic sites.

I will grant you that my family has more of a personal stake in this than many. The proposed route could scarcely do more damage to our land in the Russellville Road/Blue Level Road area, near Memphis Junction, if they tried. It slices completely through our almost 400 acres consisting of two connecting farms, Keystone Farm and Hemlock Heights, at their broadest points. By doing so, it threatens the historic Keystone Quarry and the original homesite with its 1840's house. The house will stand, but the hills and land surrounding it will be ruined. Living in that house or others on the property will become disheartening rather than a pleasure.

The construction of new lines will mar the scenic nature of Warren County for all who look toward the West. In its "wisdom," EKPC has chosen to construct the new lines directly across the top of one of the highest ridges in that part of Warren County, a ridge that can be seen from the campus of Western Kentucky University and by anyone who drives out US 68/80. To cross this heavily wooded ridge, they plan to clear-cut a 150' path through trees, habitats and scenic rock outcroppings. If the lines are built, they will be a blight that will forever remind everyone that TVA and EKPC made little-to-no effort to work together to eliminate the need for environmental destruction and towering monstrosities. I would not think this is the type of monument that either company wishes to build.

The land ruined by EKPC's new lines will be lost forever and the homes they skirt will be tainted in perpetuity by the visual and possible physical issues posed by such transmission lines. We have but one history in Warren County and one environment in which we must all live, but they will be obliterated for future generations by these lines.


It is hard to know exactly where EKPC is in its process. A recent Rural Utilities Service memo indicated that the process is in the early stages because the required environmental and historic studies must be completed prior to approval of the federal funding of the project. EKPC, however, seems to be forging ahead irrespective of any studies or route options that may exist.

It is my hope and prayer that TVA will live up to your reputation of being good stewards of the land and the environment and make a genuine effort to work with EKPC to share your transmission lines. An issue of this magnitude should not be allowed to stall because of an "us against them" attitude. The entire country benefits when utility companies work together to minimize the need for yet more power lines in the already crisscrossed patchwork that runs around the United States.

Perhaps there is nothing that can be done at this juncture. But, perhaps there is. I ask that you explore the possibilities and do what is best for the environment, the history, the natural beauty and the customers of Southcentral Kentucky.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. My family and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



John C. Perkins, Jr.

cc: Mr. and Mrs. John C. Perkins
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